

Weare Heritage Commission
MINUTES
February 3, 2009

In attendance: Chairperson Tanya Kress, Vice Chairperson/Secretary Meg Malette, Heleen Kurk, and George Malette. Natacha Villamia Sochat resigned from the commission.

The November 26, 2008, minutes were unavailable at the February 3, 2009 meeting. Tanya will contact the former Secretary Natacha Villamia Sochat, to request her notes for Meg to transcribe.

Recently, Tanya and Preservation Planner Nadine Peterson of New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources reviewed Weare's zoning ordinances. Tanya said that Nadine was pleased with the progress the town is making with regard to safeguarding its historical preservation and is on the right track to become approved as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Once the town is approved, it will be eligible to receive a grant to pay for a town wide, historical survey.

One of the roles of a CLG is to get together with other communities for a common cause, for example – the General John Stark Scenic Byway, which passes through Goffstown, Dunbarton, New Boston, and Weare. All these towns will share any significant history, which took place along the byway, with each other to be available for the public as a possible tourist destination. Weare's town wide survey and the Weare Historical Society are perfect resources for this information.

While reviewing the zoning, the following was discussed between the ladies:

1. The town's zoning ordinances should reflect the master plan
2. Clinton Grove's demolition delay should have the Weare Heritage Commission (WHC) as the entity to be contacted, not the Weare Historical Society. (WHC is an official entity of the town and a regulatory body.)
3. Survey will uncover and pinpoint areas of historical integrity and boundaries will be established

Once the town wide survey is complete, the WHC should create a booklet to include:

1. A summary of what is worth protecting
2. Recommend what should be protected
3. Results of survey
4. Booklet is a great marketing tool to educate the people of Weare on its history and why it should be protected
5. Booklet will present the contents of the survey in an easy to read format for the lay person/public.

Discussion took place about future goals of establishing historic districts in the villages. George added that, at the present time, the planning board oversees the villages and is talking about making the building lots in the villages smaller to accommodate increased density in order to offset the 5 acre minimum of the rural/agricultural zoning. Architectural requirements for new

construction in the villages should become more defined, if this new zoning passes in the villages.

The planning board also voted to not allow wind turbines in the villages; they will be allowed elsewhere in town. The citizens in the villages are not aware that this decision was made by the planning board.

Tanya said the WHC should be the overseer of the villages. She added that the WHC should not only be working toward the CLG designation but reaching out to the citizens of Weare in order to inform and educate them on the importance of preservation in our town. If this is done successfully, then the WHC will probably fulfill its mission and achieve its goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Malette

Meg Malette, Vice Chairperson/Secretary